



**MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON WATER POLICY
REVIEW & MONITORING
MINUTES**

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON WATER POLICY REVIEW & MONITORING

City Hall, Council Chambers

201 S. Cortez St.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

Prescott, Arizona 86303

10:30AM – 11:30AM

928-777-1130

Minutes for the **Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review & Monitoring** meeting held
October 18, 2022.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Lamerson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Phil Goode	Mayor – Present
James (Jim) Lamerson	Chair – Present
Robert (Bob) Roecker	Vice Chair – Present
Gary Beverly	Member – Excused
Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol	Member – Present (10:38 a.m.)
Peter Kroopnick	Member – Present
Michael Taylor	Member – Present
Gary Worob	Member – Present

4. Discussion & Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2022

**GARY WOROB MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING; MICHAEL TAYLOR 2ND THE MOTION, - PASSED
[6-0]**

B. Update: Outcomes from Quarterly Update to Council held September 27, 2022

Staff Liaison Leslie Graser shared the details from the Quarterly Update presented to Council, during the September 27, 2022 Study Session. The update covered the activity of the commission from June 2022 through September 2022.

The commission's four working questions were highlighted:

- How will you define what makes the document effective – should be determined if it has the effect to support reasonable growth and development, particularly infill development where feasible; determine what is and isn't in the policy and should be; water use is adequately and frequently monitored

- Which parts of the document do you plan to focus on to review and monitor – there were 17 recommendations to rank; Policies 11- 14, Policy 4, Policy 5, Policy 8 and 9 rose to the top
- What do you propose to do to monitor these parts— we want data(quantities, numbers, facts, observations, measurement, graphs, information)
- How are those parts and overall document tracked and presented to determine effectiveness

The next steps of the commission included:

- Keeping the direction as noted, yet keeping it flexible for new ideas that may come forward during this ongoing process
- Continuation of work on the process for which the policy will be reviewed by
- Additional time to request and assess the data that may or may not be available
- Provide the next Quarterly Update by January 2023

Chairman Lamerson inquired of Ms. Graser if any of the Council members gave benchmarks for what they are expecting out of the commission. Per Ms. Graser, the Council did not give exact benchmarks with due dates, but instead would like to continue to see what direction the commission is headed in.

Mayor Goode commented that the Council has an understanding that the commission results are more educational than measurable, and provide a benchmark understanding to move forward.

C. Continued Discussion: Questions 2 and 3

Ms. Graser discussed the general consensus of the committee thus far, and the request for more data to assess concerning the following questions:

- Question 2. Which parts of the document do you plan to focus on to review and monitor?
- Question 3. What do you propose to do to monitor these parts?

Ms. Graser continued by explaining what data is available and how that data is tracked. The presentation started with a policy review matrix document shared with the commission, and Ms. Graser provided an overview of the various sections that applied to New Applications, Water Budget, Existing Contracts, Water Outside City Limits, and the Water Portfolio :

- Water Policy Section
- Policy Number and Brief Description
- Data Available (Y/N/NA)
- Is it Currently Tracked on a Regular Basis
- Comments

Member Bob Roecker inquired about why section seven could not be section one. Ms. Graser responded and explained that it depends on the applicant, and the quantity of water being applied for, as a couple examples but not limited to. For instance, some applications are able to be administratively approved whereas some applications need to move forward through a Pre-Application Conference.

Chairman Lamerson inquired about administratively approved applications, and what the limit is. Per Ms. Graser, the limit is referred to in Policy 2.

Member Gary Worob requested an example of an unapproved application. Ms. Graser invited Kay Sydow with the City's Public Works Department to respond to Member Worob. Per Ms. Sydow, there have not been any recent denials to reference. Chairman Lamerson inquired about the ramifications of an applicant exceeding their water usage. Per Ms. Sydow, there are measures in place to track and monitor usage.

Member Worob also inquired about rainwater harvesting incentive programs, as well as rainwater harvesting for developers. Per Ms. Sydow, there are incentives available and encouraged, however they are unable to be enforced. To enforce them would require Council involvement and an ordinance. Chairman Lamerson commented regarding rainwater harvesting, and that although open discussion is worthy the topic would ultimately be decided upon through Council. Ms. Graser added that even though the subject would not be able to reach a determination today, it has been noted.

Member Gary Kroopnick requested clarification regarding Policy 5, related to the cost benefit analysis for determining if a project aligns with that of the City's limited water resources. Ms. Graser referred to Attachment 7 of the Water Policy, which provides additional information.

Member Michael Taylor inquired about Policy 10 regarding the 75% effluent return requirement, and whether or not non-residential is excluded with regard to water used in product manufacturing. He provided an example of a brewery using the water in their end product, and a high percentage of that water would not be returning as wastewater. Per Ms. Graser, it was a good example, but she didn't believe that type of situation was contemplated as part of the policy development; however, the City has seen conditions like that in the past.

Member Gillian Haley-Meierbachtol also inquired about the 75% return of effluent, and if there is currently a mechanism in place to measure and require return per customer. Ms. Graser responded and explained that although the intention is good, the enforcement of such a measure becomes challenging. She further explained that there is a type of exception for Proposition 400 properties, where return flows are put to permanent recharge. Member Haley-Meierbachtol commented that this issue may be one to flag for Council review, as part of the commission's quarterly update.

Mayor Goode agreed with the comments about effluent monitoring, however, the cost to implement effluent monitoring for each sewer line proves to become very costly. To Member Worob's comment regarding rainwater harvesting, and using the water for irrigation, there are two types of harvesting which include passive and active. Mayor Goode added that it is important to continue to focus on monitoring applications for water, and provided some examples of the benefits of doing so.

Director Ashley Couch, with the City's Public Works Department, explained the process involved with applications being received and closely reviewed and monitored. He commented that the use of the Water Resource Management Model (WRMM) has been a good tool for monitoring as well.

Member Taylor inquired about what happens if or when an applicant uses less water than originally applied for, and if that retainage can go back into the Water Portfolio. Mayor Goode commented that examples when that type of situation has occurred may be helpful, and Chairman Lamerson agreed that reviewing the history of water applications could aid as well.

Member Worob commented on the City of Tucson's water plan, and how it relates to water conservation incentives. He added that it ties into the importance of Member Taylor's comment about less water being used than applied for.

Mayor Goode suggested the commission not get too far ahead, and focus on monitoring the Water Policy to be sure it is working the way it is intended to. Additional options and ideas can be reviewed in the future, after monitoring our current data and gaining more understanding. Circling back to the 75% return issue, it may have to do more with large developments. He continued by explaining how the approval/denial process works with the Water Issues Subcommittee.

Member Kroopnick inquired about the 75% return issue, and if the goal is for non-residential only. Ms. Graser responded that it applies to non-residential in the current Water Policy. The intent is that residential would all be connected to the City sewer system.

Ms. Graser continued the presentation, regarding the policy review matrix and shared the location where the bi-monthly reports are located on the City's website. The section on the website includes a table with the amount of water that has been approved, by City Council or Administratively, to date from each water budget. There are also reports for Approved Projects, July to date, as well as Approved Projects Under Existing Contracts, July to date.

Related to existing contracts, a Contract Master Table spreadsheet was also shared by Ms. Graser, and she explained that contracts as old as the 1940's are listed in there until about 2020. Information about the newer existing contracts, and related documents such as amendments for example, may need to either be included or a new tracking practice may be needed.

Ms. Graser concluded the presentation by explaining the follow up material that would be emailed to the commission members. The material would include a copy of the policy review matrix, with areas for input from the members.


D. Next Meeting's Materials

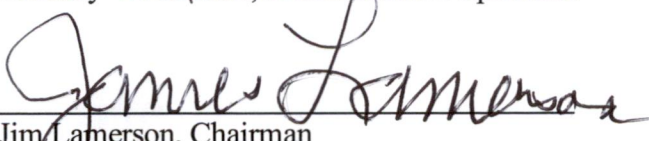
The next meeting will take place on November 15, 2022, at ~~10:30 a.m.~~

REVISED: The next meeting will take place on November 15, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

5. Adjournment

There being no further items to discuss, Mr. Lamerson adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.


Marikay Whisenand, Administrative Specialist


Jim Lamerson, Chairman

Date: 11/15/2022